

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 /056 W

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R 021055Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1940

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, CE

SUBJ: VISIT OF SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER TO IRAQ

1. SUMMARY: SRI LANKA PM MRS. BANDARANAIKE VISITED IRAQ APRIL 23-26 AT INVITATION OF RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN. VISIT RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE BUT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. IT FITS INTO NOW FAMILIAR PATTERN OF STATE VISITS WHICH IRAQ WELCOMES FOR PRESTIGE AND GUEST SEEKS CONCESSIONS ON OIL IMPORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE LAID HEAVY EMPHASIS ON "BROAD IDENTITY OF VIEWS" AND ON FULL SUPPORT FOR NON-ALIGNMENT. SRI LANKA PRAISED MARCH 6 IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD. AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR FAISAL JUNAID, GAVE ME FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON VISIT: MRS. BANDARANAIKE WAS IMPRESSED WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN AS STRONG AND INTELLIGENT LEADER BUT FOUND HIM EXTREMELY TOUGH AND SELF-CONFIDENT. SHE NOTED APPARENT COMPLETE HARMONY OF VIEWS BETWEEN HIM AND PRESIDENT AL-BAKR. HE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS TO OBTAIN DEFERRED PAYMENT (7YEARS) OF IRAQI OIL. ACCORDING TO PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR LOAN WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR 19 MILLION DOLLARS AND OIL SOLD AT CONCESSIONAL PRICE OF

10.25 PER BARREL WHICH WOULD MAKE APPROXIMATELY 1.85 MILLION BARRELS. LENGTH OF DELIVERY TIME UNKNOWN. SECURITY AUTHORITIES WERE VERY TOUGH AND DEMANDING THROUGHOUT THE VISIT AND COMPLETELY IGNORED MFA PROTOCOL DEPT.

4. ALL SOCIAL OCCASIONS WERE STRICTLY MALE AFFAIRS AND WHEN JUNAID SUGGESTED TO MFA THAT WOMEN BE INCLUDED, HE WAS ASKED IF MRS. BANDARANAIKE WAS COMING AS PM OR A WOMEN. JUNAID DID MANAGE TO KEEP INVITATIONS FOR HER RECEPTION OF SADDAM UNDER HIS CONTROL AND INVITED ME TO ATTEND, SOMETHING MFA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE VETOED IF ASKED.

5. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR SAID MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAD ALSO RECEIVED ONE MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO HELP FINANCE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN 1976 IN COLOMBO.

6. COMMENT: MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF VISIT AS SEEN FROM BAGHDAD IS HOW IT FITS INTO IRAQI EFFORTS TO BECOME SIGNIFICANT MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED CAMP. REGIME APPEARS TO BE SUBLIMATING DOWNGRADING OF LONG STANDING GOAL OF ARAB UNITY UNDER AEGIS OF BAATH PARTY BY EMBRACING NON-ALIGNMENT.

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